

**COMMITTEE TO REVIEW SUICIDE FATALITIES**  
**MINUTES**  
**November 21, 2014**  
**1:00 p.m.**

Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH)	Toll-Free Dial Number
Bureau of Child, Family and Community Wellness (CFCW)	(866) 434-5269
Office of Suicide Prevention (OSP)	
445 Apple Street, Suite 104	Conference Code
Reno, NV 89502	7501044

DPBH-CFCW  
Office of Suicide Prevention  
3811 West Charleston Blvd., Ste. 210  
Las Vegas, NV 89102

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT IN LAS VEGAS**

Mike Bernstein, M. Ed. (Southern Nevada Health District)  
Heather Shoop (WestCare)

**BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

Sgt. Annette Mullin, Co-Chair (Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department)

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT VIA TELEPHONE CONFERENCE**

Capt. Leslie Mays, Co-Chair (Nevada Air National Guard)  
Dr. Lesley Dickson (Nevada Psychiatric Association)  
Joanne Libertelli (Spring Mountain Treatment Center)  
Coroner Michael Murphy (Clark County Coroner's Office)  
Dr. Melissa Piasecki, University of Nevada, School of Medicine  
Senator Debbie Smith (District 13 – Sparks)

**DIVISION OF PUBLIC AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH STAFF PRESENT IN LAS VEGAS**

Richard Egan, Suicide Prevention Training and Outreach Facilitator, DPBH-CFCW-OSP

**DIVISION OF PUBLIC AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH STAFF PRESENT IN RENO**

Misty Allen, State Suicide Prevention Coordinator, DPBH-CFCW-OSP  
Angela Friedman, Program Assistant, DPBH-CFCW-OSP

**DIVISION OF PUBLIC AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH STAFF PRESENT VIA TELEPHONE CONFERENCE**

Beth Handler, Deputy Bureau Chief, CFCW

**OTHERS PRESENT VIA TELEPHONE CONFERENCE**

Sharon Benson, Senior Deputy Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General  
Edward Wynder, Student, University of Nevada—Las Vegas  
Marlyn Scholl, LCSW, VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System, Reno

Captain Leslie Mays called the meeting of the Committee to Review Suicide Fatalities (CRSF) to order at 1:06 PM. The meeting was properly posted at the locations listed on the agenda in accordance with the Nevada Open Meeting Law (OML).

**1. Roll Call and Introductions**

Roll call was taken by Capt. Mays. It was determined a quorum of the Committee to Review Suicide Fatalities was present.

**2. VOTE ON MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 23, 2014 MEETING**

No corrections, deletions or additions were made to the minutes as presented.

**CAPT. LESLIE MAYS ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 23, 2014 MEETING. A MOTION TO APPROVE WAS MADE BY SENATOR DEBBIE SMITH. DR. MELISSA PIASECKI SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITHOUT PUBLIC COMMENT.**

**3. REVIEW AND APPROVE THE UPDATED DATA COLLECTION TOOL**

Rick Egan informed the members the data collection tool was intended to be used electronically and would include drop down boxes and auto-populated data, such as the age at death, to help with consistency of information. The members discussed the use of the tool for the 15 cases to be reviewed at the February meeting. Mr. Egan asked how the members would like to use #20. Dr. Melissa Piasecki suggested the data collection could be semi-narrative depending on the members' preference. The members discussed the approval of the collection tool with the need to review for changes over the months as necessary. It was suggested upcoming agendas would continue to include the review and approval of the data collection tool.

**CAPT. LESLIE MAYS ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE SUICIDE EVENT REVIEW PRESENTATION DATA COLLECTION TOOL IN ITS CURRENT FORMAT WITH THE OPTION TO MAKE CHANGES AS NEEDED IN THE FUTURE. A MOTION TO APPROVE WAS MADE BY MIKE BERNSTEIN. DR. MELISSA PIASECKI SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITHOUT PUBLIC COMMENT.**

**4. DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF SCRIPT FOR CORONER INVESTIGATORS**

Ms. Allen reported she would like to continue to work on the script. She suggested since Marlyn Scholl is familiar with working to veteran families she may wish to assist with the script. Ms. Allen asked for the agenda item to be tabled to the next meeting.

No public comment was heard.

**5. UPDATE ON VETERANS ADMINISTRATION PARTICIPATION WITH CRSF AND PRESENTATION REGARDING VETERAN SUICIDE DEATHS**

Ms. Allen described her experience at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Implementation Academy on suicide prevention in Bethesda, Maryland. She explained that Marlyn Scholl is the Veteran's Administration (VA) Suicide Prevention Specialist. She responds to Veterans who have called the National Crisis Line and want to be connected to their local VA. Ms. Scholl's work with the local families of veterans could enhance the work of the committee.

Ms. Scholl discussed her work connecting with the families, offering referrals and support, and encouraging self-care. She does not ask questions but the families voluntarily offer details about the

deceased. She discussed the VA's Behavioral Health Autopsy Report program which is a template of questions completed using the patient record, remote data from other medical centers, and with their permission, the families' input to determine how the VA might improve.

Capt. Mays discussed her experience as the National Air Guard (Guard) Suicide Prevention Manager in Reno and the biggest gap of accessing Guard member data related to suicide and suicide attempts from facilities outside of the Guard. Ms. Scholl will look into the situation and determine if a Memo of Understanding (MOU) is appropriate. She will need samples to work with Luana Ritch, Quality Assurance Specialist, DPBH to process the MOU. The MOU will need to be approved by their local privacy officer and their leadership quadrad.

Ms. Allen mentioned the optimistic possibility of the MOU considering the statute covering confidentiality of the committee members and no need for the names of the patients. Richard Egan, Ms. Allen and Ms. Scholl discussed the committee's Request for Information letter based on statute, the need for an MOU, and the process to establish the MOU. Sharon Benson offered her assistance in writing the MOU.

**CAPT. LESLIE MAYS ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO MOVE FORWARD TO DEVELOP AN MOU BETWEEN THE COMMITTEE TO REVIEW SUICIDE FATALITIES AND THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION. MOTION TO MOVE FORWARD WAS MADE BY MIKE MURPHY. MIKE BERNSTEIN SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITHOUT PUBLIC COMMENT.**

#### **6. DISCUSS AND RECOMMEND NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS AND DATE**

Ms. Allen reminded the members the Face-to-Face meeting is on February 6, 2015. Angela Friedman will be contacting the members regarding the travel arrangements.

The members determined the next teleconference meeting will be on January 16, 2015 at 1:00 PM. Agenda items for the next meeting will be the discussion and review of the script, and the possible MOU with the VA. Ms. Allen asked members email her or Ms. Friedman with other agenda items to add for the next meeting.

Heather Shoop will work to invite Richard McKeon from SAMHSA to attend the committee's meetings.

No public comment was heard.

#### **7. DISCUSS AND FINALIZE PLANNING OF DATA FOR FEBRUARY FACE TO FACE REVIEW MEETING**

Mr. Egan explained the February meeting will review 15 cases, some randomly chosen from a sampling of 2012 cases and some cases from the June 2014 meeting. Mr. Murphy suggested, for consistency, that a staff member should collect and present the information for all cases. Ms. Benson noted in her experience, a staff presentation with expert additional information where needed is best. Mr. Egan noted his experience and offered to share information prior to the face-to-face meeting. Mr. Murphy expressed the need for consistency of process. Mr. Egan explained the tool collects the data and the narrative is read. Prior to the meeting, the case is reviewed in the tool format by the members. And other entities are invited to weigh in on the review. The goal is to glean a recommendation for the final report.

**CAPT. LESLIE MAYS ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO MOVE FORWARD WITH STAFF PRESENTING THE INFORMATION TO THE COMMITTEE IN FEBRUARY, STAFF SENDING INFORMATION IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING TO THE MEMBERS ACKNOWLEDGING THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF THE INFORMATION, AND THE MEMBERS EVALUATING THE PROCESS AND ADJUSTING THE PROCESS AS NECESSARY. A MOTION WAS MADE BY MIKE MURPHY. SENATOR DEBBI SMITH SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITHOUT PUBLIC COMMENT.**

Ms. Allen and Mr. Egan will send the data to the members ten days in advance of the February meeting.

**8. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public was heard.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned at 1:49 PM